

**GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON COMMUNITY-BASED ALTERNATIVES
FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES'
HOUSING SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING (Subgroup)**

May 10, 2016 – 1:00 PM

Room 198, Administration Building, DHSS/Holloway Campus, New Castle, DE

PRESENT: Daniese McMullin-Powell, Chair; Dianne Casey, DE HIV Consortium; Linda Cox, The Arc of Delaware; Devon Degyansky (via phone), Delaware State Housing; Julie French, DSAMH-Housing; Marlena Gibson (via phone), Delaware State Housing; Wanda Goldsborough, DDDS; Brian Hartman, Disabilities Law Program; Lottie Lee, DSAAPD; Andi Wozny, DSAAPD; Kyle Hodges, Staff; and Amber Rivard, Support Staff.

CALL TO ORDER

Daniese called the meeting to order at 1:11 pm. Everyone introduced themselves.

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

The minutes from the March 8, 2016 meeting were approved as submitted.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

- New Changes to the Homeless Bill of Rights (Kyle)

BUSINESS

Division of Developmental Disabilities Services Presentation

Wanda provided an overview and distributed a copy of her powerpoint presentation. She provided leadership information, including Division Director and Regional Program Directors. Wanda also reviewed the following:

- Mission Statement
- Vision Statement
- Offices/Units (Office of the Director, Office of Quality Improvement, Budget, Office of Contracts & Business Services, Applicant Services; Office of Resource Development & Management, Community Services, and Stockley Center)
- Basic Eligibility Criteria
- Applicant Services
- Family Support Services (Family Support Specialists are contractors with the State)
- Home & Community Based Services, including the following services: Employment Information, Family Support, Day Habilitation/Transition, Residential and Respite
- Office of Resource Development & Management.
- Contact Information for each Office, including a 24-Hour Toll Free Number (1-866-552-5758)
- Website link: <http://www.dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/ddds/>

Wanda stated that, as the Division moves forward, they will be making changes in the direct care services currently provided, with the exception of Stockley. Lottie added that there will be a lot of innovative changes to the grounds of Stockley, including having a community-type campus. Wanda commented that if anyone had further questions or needed additional clarification, she could be contacted by email. Kyle asked about clarification on the multiple agencies that provide services so people have choice. He also asked for the numbers of people in Residential Services. Wanda will provide this information with a brief definition of each option. Andi asked about the waiver program which allows families and individuals living in a group home setting, she asked if there is going to be a push on breaking down group homes for those currently in a group home setting. Wanda explained that the goal is to have neighborhood homes of three or less. Some individuals are placed in group homes due to a crisis. Daniese added that CMS is looking at how services are delivered in group homes. Kyle added that CMS Rules will be changing. Kyle asked about community living under DSAMH. Julie commented that they are three-bedroom and single apartments. Kyle thanked Wanda for today's presentation.

DSAAPD Care Transitions Program

Andi distributed a copy of the Delaware Aging & Disability Resource Center brochure. She spoke of DSAAPD's three transition offices. They have case managers and nurses who provide community services. Services provided are: personal care, housekeeping and respite for caregivers. State facilities are also under DSAAPD and include Delaware Hospital for the Chronically Ill and Governor Bacon Health Center. Bissell has been closed. The goal is to integrate people into the community.

Andi spoke about the Care Transitions Program, which consists of two case managers, a supervisor and an options counselor. They serve as gatekeepers to the State facilities and they have a process in place with the thought that it is a last resort for someone to be admitted. DMMA currently handles MFP (Money Follows the Person) Program, which contracts with United Health Care, Highmark and the PACE Program (through St. Francis Healthcare). Andi explained that the PACE Program provided wrap around services for the elderly option of Integrated Long Term Care that provides comprehensive medical and social services so that older individuals may remain living in the community. Andi stated that DSAAPD makes referrals to the PACE Program and spoke highly of the program. She noted the Plus Services should be under DMMA for those who have a mental health diagnosis and part the aging population. The goal is to find a State placement, but is not always feasible. She said that they also get many referrals from the Department of Correction and spoke of different issues with this population. Brian spoke about the difficulty in obtaining guardianship in certain cases and getting people out of the hospitals. Kyle asked if Andi is still able to divert people from the State institutions. Brian commented that the numbers are still good in terms of diversion and those numbers can be found in the JFC presentation. Andi agreed especially since they have been doing this for five years. Andi noted that Delaware is one of the few states that continue to get Plus clients with no waiting list.

Andi is also currently participating on an initiative with the Newark Police, along with other State agency representatives. She also is working on a VA-SRAP project with the VA Support

Contractors; the focus is on individuals who are homeless statewide. Dianne spoke about the point-in-time audit that the Homeless Planning Council conducted in January and said that the numbers will be released soon. She added that this is something that we might want to review. Marlena spoke about the Governor signing on last May to the National Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness. Many different groups and agencies came together to work on this initiative. They were able to give 20 vouchers to homeless veterans. Devon commented that it went really well after a rocky beginning. Kyle thanked Andi for her presentation.

Revised Homeless Bill of Rights

Kyle referred to S.B. 134, which is a revised Homeless Bill of Rights legislation (handout). The SCPD Policy & Law Committee had supported last year's bill. The Homeless Planning Council is pursuing to have this or a Substitute Bill reintroduced. Kyle noted that the original bill was four pages and this one is ten pages (additions are underlined in the document). Kyle wanted to make Committee members aware; they are looking for support and testimony. He will keep everyone updated on the status of this legislation.

Source of Income Legislation Update

Kyle stated that the new legislation includes Source of Income as a protected class. He added that it is Out-of-Committee. The Delaware Apartment Association had concern about sustainability of income, so an amendment was attached. The legislation has passed the Senate and is now in the House. The House attorneys are trying to clarify that the bill does not impact these types of groups. Brian commented that support of this legislation is appreciated. Kyle will keep everyone posted.

811 and SRAP Update

Marlena provided an update on 811 and SRAP. Eight sites have come through on 811 and they will be able to make referrals when there are vacancies. There are 100 units under contract and 30 units available that they are making referrals on. Three (3) have come through for the subsidy payment. They are working on the schedule developed in which they are bringing more sites and units online. The last remaining sites are new construction or rehab sites; these will most likely not be available until next year.

Julie commented that she is still seeing a lot of letters from DSHA requesting that her clients look at the properties. She shared that the training for Section 811 providers will need to be repeated due to high turnover. Marlena added that they receive a lot of questions from apartment managers from the referral email address. Kyle asked Marlena to send him an email with the updated numbers (in chart form) and he will periodically request updates.

Marlena spoke about the SRAP Program. She stated that the program is very well supported and they received good feedback during the JFC Hearings. The Governor has recommended an additional \$500,000 in his Recommended Budget to extend the pilot with the Christiana School District, which serves homeless families (time-limited initiative). Andi commented that

DSAAPD received three or four referrals from mothers requesting DSAAPD vouchers; these are long term vouchers, for which they would not qualify. She added that from the day the family receives the voucher, someone should be assisting them in becoming independent and looking at other housing sources before the year time limit ends. Marlana added that the applications flowed through the homeless liaisons and the committee at the school district about looking at these types of issues when deciding which family would receive a voucher. They also tightened up case management. Devon commented that an action plan should be in place and followed, including contacting ADRC if they have a qualifying disability. Marlana stated that there have been lessons learned from the pilot. Kyle asked if there were any new vouchers available. Marlana said that there are no more vouchers. They will be evaluating the funds committed and expected costs to figure out if they can open it back up in the next couple of months. They evaluate about every six months. Marlana explained that every voucher does not cost the same amount so they have to figure out how much needs to be reserved. They also have to consider turnover. Marlana said they do not expect the available amount to be large. Kyle thanked Marlana and Devon for the updates. He will submit any further questions by email.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:02 pm. The next meeting will be held Tuesday, July 12, 2016 at 1:00 pm, Room 198-Administration Building, DHSS Campus, 1901 N. duPont Highway, New Castle.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo Singles
Administrative Specialist

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